



IFW

Customer No. 26874  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Attorney Docket:END910.0511041

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Wales, et al. : Paper No:  
Serial No. 10/615,971 : Group Art Unit: 3721  
Filed: July 9, 2003 : Examiner: Paul Durand  
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING ARTICULATION JOINT  
SUPPORT PLATES FOR SUPPORTING A FIRING BAR

**AMENDMENT & RESPONSE**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated June 24, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page of this paper.